

Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, lines 7-10 (Second Paragraph):

This application also describes and claims subject matter that is in co-pending United States patent application filed simultaneously herewith and entitled: "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXTENDING NETWORK ADDRESS TRANSLATION FOR UNSUPPORTED PROTOCOLS," Serial No. 09/698,973.

Page 7, lines 6-27:

A NAT that is extensible to handle unsupported protocols, such as the IPsec protocol, is the subject of the afore-noted co-pending patent application Serial No. 09/698,973, filed on even date hereof. The extensible NAT, upon receiving a request from a client that defines for an unsupported protocol, a generalized port number (GPN) and its location within the packet, assigns a global IP address and global GPN in association with the client's private IP address and GPN for packets sent to and received from a specified foreign address. An entry is then installed in the NAT's translation table, in memory, that defines for that protocol the association between the client's private IP address and GPN and the assigned global IP address and GPN for communication with the specified foreign address until a specified or default expiration time.

Outgoing packets from a client using that protocol and having as a source address that private IP address and that private GPN and having that foreign address as their destination, will have their source address translated to the global IP address and their private source GPN translated to the global GPN, as defined by that entry in the translation table. Similarly, incoming packets using that protocol and having as their source address that foreign address, and having

the global IP address as their destination address, will have their destination address translated to the private IP address and their destination GPN translated to the private GPN. Such translations in outgoing and incoming packets continue until the expiration time of the entry in the translation table, which may be extended in response to a request from a client.